



Department of Conservation and Recreation
Stewardship Council Meeting
November 2, 2007
Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, Ma

Meeting Minutes

Stewardship Councilors in Attendance: Councilors, Julian Agyeman, Christina Crowley, Michael Dutton, Whitney Hatch, Henry Lee and Dan Wolf.

Public Attendees: Mike Ryan, Friends of the Fells; Steve Kaiser, Association of Cambridge Neighborhood; A. Richard Miller, Cochituate State Park Advisory Committee; Jill A. Miller, Natick Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Claudia Hurley, Friends of Robinson State Park; Carol Gilmour, Friends of Robinson State Park; Paul A. Remington, New England Trail Riders Association; Robert Kane, Constituent from the Town of Clinton; Sharl Heller, Friends of Myles Standish State Forest; James McCaffrey, Sierra Club; and David Bryant, The Trustees of Reservations.

DCR Staff in Attendance: Commissioner Rick Sullivan, Stephanie Cooper, Jeff Daley, Marianne Fleckner, Suzanne Wilson, Gary Briere, Tom LaRosa, Jack Donohue, Marcelle Valentin, and Joe Rotondo.

I. Call To Order (1:00 p.m.), Councilor Whitney Hatch

- a. Councilor Hatch welcomed everyone and introduced the Commissioner in the absence of Chairman Cross.

II. Commissioner's Report, Commissioner Rick Sullivan

- a. Commissioner Sullivan informed the Council and the public that he has put a team together and is currently looking for a Director for Urban Parks. Due to the storms and complications Jack Murray, Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Dam Overton, Deputy Director of Urban Parks could not attend the meeting. He thanked Priscilla Geigis, Director of State Parks is helping giving guidance to Urban Parks in the absence of a director in the time being. The Commissioner mentioned that there were over several certified letters that went out to various Yacht Clubs whom have not signed off on their permits in the past three years also informing them that they must be in compliance for public access.
- b. The Commissioner informed that Schlaikjer donated the land to Wachusett Watershed early November.
- c. There was media press on the Foss Park Legislative investment earmark that involved 5 big belly compacter and other projects to beatify the facility.
- d. At the Willowdale Estate a private vendor restored the mansion at Bradley Palmer.
- e. Construction continues on Storrow Drive, lots of traffic, clear understanding that all 31 bridges need work to make them safe for the motor vehicles and public at all times.
- f. Awarded a 5 year contract at the Blue Hills ski area. The last contractor ran out on insurance. DCR decided to go with a contractor in New Jersey; we are pretty excited due to programming being initiated and getting families and individuals into the ski area.
- g. Robert Russell former Council member submitted resignation to the Stewardship Council, we have 3 open slots and are in process of reviewing candidates and soon will have the compliments of a full Stewardship Council members.

III. **Committee Updates and Meeting Schedules**

a. **Finance Committee, *Whitney Hatch***

- i. Mentioned the meeting at Carson Beach that he was able to attend and good attendance of DCR staff for the Beach Commission and DCR delivered on the funds and DCR did great job. Beach commission did a survey on the results of meeting.
- ii. There is current discussion between the Council, EOEEA and DCR regarding the FY09 budget, part of responsibility to legislative stature. Maintenance budget and request for increase; working with the committee on the Bond Bill/Capital budget. Finance Committee must review before submitting to see if everything that is needed is added to the bond bill. The process on capital budget looking at what the authorization are at and push to levels that are needed and not placed in areas needed not necessary. High hopes in legislative line on the gap analysis to revisit.

b. **Resource Management Plan Committee, *Henry Lee***

- i. Councilor Lee stated that the subcommittee will meet at the middle of next month and will go over the proposed strategy to move ahead Stony Brook. We will have full report for December. There was a delay for 6 months due to staff changes. Councilor Lee hopes Charles River RMP will be able to review since last year they did not.

c. **Policy Committee, *Julian Agyeman***

- i. Councilor Agyeman - OHV discussion on the lack of enforcement, said due to staff changes and administration that is why a delay on the enforcement piece for policy. He mentioned how Gary followed up OHV meeting, noticed concern technology and he recruited a student to work with Gary, himself and EPO to put something together a technological approach to enforcement, student will report in Jan/Feb. He feels not just for enforcement OHV but also safety issue as well.

IV. **Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Group Update, *Bureau Chief Recreation, Gary Briere***

- a. Gary Briere mentioned that the next OHV meeting is on November 30. He is looking forward to work with the student, Councilor Agyeman, and Councilor Crowley due to complicity of this issue. Jim Hanlon from EPO also working with student. Councilor Hatch asked if there can be an ear regarding boots on the ground. Commissioner Sullivan said working on the deterrents of minimal citations. Also increasing Rangers on staff for FY09 to place more boots on the ground, yesterday at WBNNR found out can work with National Coast Guard who are also having same issues. Henry was saying bots on ground really needed on the beaches and a gap analysis is very critical the overall picture. Rick said that rangers will have cross function duties, dual roles not just enforcement.

V. **Approval of Minutes from September 7th and October 4th meeting**

All in favor for September. Amendment requested for October minutes.

VI. **Public Comment**

- a. **Mike Ryan** of Friends of the Fells discussed the funding issues for the parkways. He mentioned the benchmark for gap analysis as a probable tool to figure out funds needed for the park systems and he also inquired where we were in regards to the gap analysis. Councilor Whitney Hatch stated that we have not started the gap analysis because we did not receive the funding for the gap analysis each time it was proposed. Mike Ryan stated that he has heard Senators and Representatives state that they would give the funds needed and wonders why DCR did not get the funding. Commissioner Sullivan and Councilor Hatch reiterated that the gap analysis has been proposed more than once requesting for funding to get the staff for Resource Management Plan gap analysis but we were not given the funding. Mike Ryan mentioned the report from the Governor's office regarding the top down review of the agency especially Urban Parks and stated his concerns about DCR's budget and capital planning not going directly to DCR. Commissioner Sullivan informed and reiterated the process that DCR does send all their finance requests to the Secretariat to which then goes to Governor's office. Commissioner Sullivan stated that the agency has had a significant input in the capital plan, bond bill, and the budget. Councilor Hatch stated that EOEEA can not do their job without information being provided and commented that even with the change of administration it does not change how the budget is allocated which is through the Secretariat; we just always need to make a good case which we have. Commissioner Sullivan mentioned that Seattle has a great tool that we can model from for the gap analysis. Councilor Hatch mentioned that we can bring our concerns and thoughts to the caucus too to see if we can get their support.
- b. **Steve Kaiser** of the Association of Cambridge Neighborhood mentioned again about the book that he discussed last month about the cavalry the importance to pull together to run the park systems, to prevent other systems from ripping apart the goal and mission of DCR. He gave a brief review of the history of how the parks were controlled in the 1860s and suggested that we learn from history. Steve Kaiser asked if there can be a discussion about the parkway transfers on the next agenda. He implored that DCR try to have the Administration rethink any type of transfer.
- c. **A. Richard Miller** of the Cochituate State Park Advisory commented on how to get public participation to help get funds to help the community. He gave an update on the rapid response at Cochituate State Park, water reservoir with a one year rapid response for the oldest roof and asked of the agency for plywood to protect the roof. Mr. Miller heard there has to be a historical review. He stated that currently Tufts University has a student monitoring experiment at Lake Cochituate to continue program and would like to know if there is funding for a program to experiment at parks.
- d. **Carol Gilmour** of Friends of Robinson State Park thanked Suzanne Wilson, Director of External Affairs for listening to the Friends' group recently. Claudia Hurley of Friends of Robinson State Park raised issues on the statewide forestry problem at Robison State Park. She is pleased about the green certification but has concerns about timber cutting. Ms. Hurley and Ms. Gilmour have reviewed reports and spoken to people who did the auditing and feel that timber cutting is not monitored appropriately and passed out an article where their concerns are raised. Proud of being a green certification but want to

make sure that the standards are being followed. Councilor Hatch would like a bullet briefing on the main standards and principle points for green certification.

- e. **Robert Kane** Constituent from the Town of Clinton talked about Lake Wachusett and the flurry of activity in central Massachusetts. Mr. Kane feels the state is letting private sectors dictate resources at ponds which he feels goes against certain laws and now constituents have to pay private sector to get to public resources. Great lakes and ponds resources and access are becoming limited when it should be available to all of public. He feels the limited access is endangering the fish at the ponds. Mr. Kane informed that voters approved \$15,000 for the citizens to have access to the ponds and lakes. He is currently trying to help the situation and save other resources. Commissioner Sullivan inquires where the jurisdiction is. Mr. Kane feels it is under DCR or the Secretariat of Environmental Affairs. Commissioner Sullivan will have legal look at documents and noted that Mr. Kane has an appointment with him to continue discussion. Councilor Wolf suggested to have on the web a location to post concerns to the Stewardship Council. The jurisdiction may fall under the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife.
- f. **Sharl Heller** of the Friends of Myles Standish State Forest commented how she is encouraged by progress being made for OHV Highway Enforcement. Ms. Heller mentioned that the current issue she would like to discuss is on the security at Myles Standish State Forest. There are 74 miles of roads with density and no patrol, which causes destruction to road paths and danger to wild fires. Sharl Heller asked DCR and the Council to go take a look at the open road vehicle destruction. The Friends' group did a review of Myles Standish State Forest regarding the history, habitat and the destruction that it is happening. Currently they are working on a study with UMASS College environmental report. She fears that the study will provide information for plunderers while there is no patrol or enforcement to protect the conservation of the state forest. Ms. Heller noted the different ideas people have of camping and implored the need we have for State Rangers to patrol and secure the campsites so constituents feel safe and not be in fear. Violators taking away from the experience and recreation at the state forests for constituents. She asked that the agency and council evaluate the need for rangers and the issues of security at the Myles Standish State Forest. The OHV working group Friends of Myles Standish State Forest will take on their 1st project to take on the campaign to stop illegal use of OHV enforcement and asked for help. Councilor Lee asked about enforcing reckless driving crimes on the dirt roads under Ch.90 and to review if the communities have jurisdiction of the roads and how do we control access. Councilor Crowley said a lot of the laws has to be changed and must be approved and it has to be public way of signage.
- g. **James McCaffrey** of the Sierra Club talked more on the green certification and making sure we are doing it properly. Mr. McCaffrey briefly discussed the measures to supporting legislation enforcement and changes that need to be done in regards to OHV enforcement. Gary Briere, Bureau Chief of Recreation informed Mr. McCaffrey of the minutes online which will brief him more on the objectives on the OHV enforcement work groups. Mr. McCaffrey inquired about the Resource Management Plan Bonds Bill. Commissioner Sullivan said the RMP language is in the budget line item request.

- VII. **Meeting Schedule** — Next meeting will be Friday, December 7. Location will be reported at a later date.

Meeting adjourned 3:45 pm